EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

COMPLED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

"The World Girdled by Telegraph"-East India Telegraph Company.

From the Times. Could our ancestors, who rejoiced over the "great improvement" to travel from Philadelphia to "York" in a rickety mail-coach, in the admirably short space of four days, arise from their graves to-day, they could not well believe their eyes seeing a train of cars speed the distance along in four hours. Their news from Europe was fresh, and highly pleased they were at it, when received by a London or Havre packet inside of three months, a distance which our Atlantic steamers have more than once overcome in nine days. And what would they say to the teregraph? Old Benjamin Franklin, who first made the lightning of heaven bend to the service of man, and who was one of those quiet, composed, reasoning beings, whose maxim is "no admirari," would certainly be amazed, if not totally bewildered, were he now to suddenly return to this world, to take the Times of a morning, and find twenty and more columns of news matter from the remotest parts of the globe, communicated by telegraph, containing information of important events all over Europe and America, which happened not as many hours before as in his good old slowcough days it took months to get reports from a like distance.

The successful laying of the Atlantic cable, and the still more markellous success of picking up the lost one of 1865, have put our country as far out West as San Francisco into almost instantaneous communication, not only with all the principal cities and prominent marts of Europe, but also with al those of Southern Asia as far into the East as Calcutta. One thing, and one only is to be deprecated in regard to the Atlantic telegraph, and that is, that both its terment are on toreign sut, and on the soil of the very power with which international rivalries may at any time produce dangerous com-plications. Should such complications unfortunately occur, then this ocean relegraph in the hands of the British Government, and com-pletely beyond our control, would at once become one of the greatest sources, not only of annoyance, but even of danger to this country. This was early foreseen, and in the reply of one of our tormer Presidents to the first congratu-latory despatch of the Queen of England (1858), the wish was expressed that the termini of the cable, together with its connecting lines and station houses, should be declared neutral for-

No answer was ever made to this expression of a more wish. But other competing lines more to the south will shortly be built, and will re-

move the danger spoken of.

The most important projected plan, and promising perhaps greater results for the weltare and material prosperity of the United States, is the Russo-American fetegraph, rapidly pushed forward on this continent by Mr. P. McD. Col-lins towards Behring Strait, and by the Emperor Alexander II, through Siberia towards the east, and the line proposed to be built and to connect with the former, by the East India Telegraph Company, from Pekin, the capital city of China, along the Chinese coast to Centon, and north and eastward to Irkutsk and Kyachta, and the mouth of the Amoor river, which latter two connecting lines are proposed to be built by the Russian Government.

The British Government, always anxious to maintain their power in the East, intend and have, we believe, entered into preliminary arrangements to extend their line of telegraph from Calcuta east to Hong Kongt and thus when all these several lines shall have been completed—and we can assure our realers that they will be completed in less than half the time it took the Atlantic cable to get into working order—then the United States may justly lay claim to the proud position of being the commercial centre of the habitable globe, for from New York to Europe, from San Francisco to A-ia, will radiate the entire commerce of the

When the late Thomas H. Benton was still a young lawyer and local politician at St. Louis, he edited a small sheet called the St. Louis Inquirer. Tais was in 1819-20. In a series of articles in that journal, neither ocean steamers, railroads, nor telegraphs being then in use, he advocated most strengously the speedy coustruction of a national wagon-road through to the Rocky Mountains, and, with a proper treaty with Spain, through California to some point on the Pacine suitable for a great hurbor. He fort fied his proposal with irrefutable arguments. His sagacious and discerning mind cailed attention to the fact that every country which, throughout all history, succeeded in obtaining a taur share of the trane with the beehives of peoples in the East, grew prosperous and wealthy. He referred to the Phonicians and Egyptians in ancient times, the Portuguese, the Dutch, the Hancatic League, and the English more recently. And he hoped that, by opening communication for convenient travel from the ississippi to the Pacific, the people of the United States might share in a like result.
"Old Bullion's" far-seeing ideas are now about

to be realized, and that in a manner which not even be, at the time of his death, could have had courage enough to hope. The telegraph to San Francisco was completed long since, and aiready reaches far up north, through Oregon into Washington Territory and the British pos sessions. The National Wagon Road proposed by him forty-six years ago, is being rapidly shed forward, supported by the bounty of our Government, but it is to be of iron, and "swift propelling steam" the mouve power. San Fraucisco, "the most suitable place on the coast for a harbor," seems selected by nature herself for the great destiny that awaits it. Communication across the Pacitic to Shanghai, connecting there by coast steamers with all the most im portant commercial cities down to Hong Kong, Macao, and Cauton, is provided for also by the bounty of our Government, waten has come to the succor of private enterprise in this great national undertaking. Thus all the preliminary steps to secure to us a fair share of the immense and highly luciative trade of the Eastern Coutinent have been completed. One thing remains yet to be done. We must have telegraphic connection directly from here, and not over England and Europe, with a Libe trade centres of Eastern Asia. Then, and then only, will our whole system of intercontinental commerce be truly American and wholly independent.

This the East India Telegraph Company, a thoroughly responsible corporation, propose to knough has been published regarding the Russo-American telegraph, now constructing and tast nearing its completion, and the reading public is so well informed of the general nature and character of the work, that, for the present, we need say no more about it. But the projected East India telegraph is less known. yet it is not only equally important with the Collins Russian line, but, we take it, immeasura-bly more so. While the Collins line gives us independent communication with Europe through Siberia and European Russia, the East India telegraph brings us daily and hourly into the very heart of the Chinese empire and to the very doors of British India. A few statistical references will show the nature and

scope of the enterprise. In the first place, it is proper to mention that by the exertions of our Minister at Pekin, Hon. Anson Borlingame, who, we must in justice add, was earnestly supported by the representatives of the other powers having treaties of commerce and friendship with China, this Company was granted, by the Chinese Government, the right to lay cables connecting the seaport cities from Canton to Shanghai, and to construct an inland line from the latter place, hy way of Nankin to Pekin. The Russian Government, by treaty, has secured the privilege of building two lines frem Pekin-one to

the Amoor, the other to Irkutak. The fact that along the coast the telegraph will be submerged is security against its destruction by land pirates or rebels. Canton, the starting point, has a population of 1,000,000 souls, and is the great commercial metropolis of the Chinese

Empire,
Macao, the next station, is also a very important trading post. Hong Kong, the third, has a population of 200,000; Amoy, the fourth, of 250,000; and Foochow, the fifth, of 1,200,000; Ningpo, the sixth station, has 300,000; and Shanghal, the next, nearly 2,000,000. From shanghai, the next, nearly 2,000,000. From thence the telegraph connects with Nankin (400,000) and Pekin, 2,000,000 of mbabitants, From this last place the connection will be completed with the Russo-American Telegraph. The entire length of cables will be 835 miles, that of the land line, 605; total, 1435. From Pekin to the Collins Telegraph the distance to be spanned by the wire is 850 miles. We be be spanned by the wire is 850 mdes. We be-lieve we have said enough to convince the reader of the pre-eminent importance of this work for the future commercial greatness of

America.

That it will be shortly completed we do not doubt, for active, energetic, responsible, and able men are in the management. The Company was chartered by the Legislature of New York in 1864. The capital is \$5,000,000, in large of \$100,000, which are rapidly taken. hares of \$100 each, which are rapidly taken Let us see to it that the Company has thorough

The North German Confederation.

From the Tribune. Preparations for constituting the North German Confederation Lave been carried on with great activity since the return of Count bismark to Berlin. On Saturday, December 15, representatives of the several Governments met in Berlin, in order to mature the propositions to be submitted on the part of the Governments to the first North German Parliament, which will assemble on the 1st of February. If It be kept in mind that of the 29,220,862 inbabitants of the Confederation, no less than 23,590,543 belong to Prussia, it will be evident that the conferences in Berlin have more the appearance of a meeting of vassals of Prussia, than of peers, In cases of disagreement, it may be presumed that the remonstrances of the aihed Governments will be very modest, for they all know that they are not only powerless with regard to Prussia, but that the Parliament which will soon assemble will strongly declare likely in favor of a consolidation of the Confederation into one tate, and a consequent weakening of the owers of the minor Governments.

The latest reports from Germany indicate that Prussia will carry through with promptness and energy the consolidation of the army of the Con-lederation, and of its diplomatic representation. The soldiers of the minor Governments will, in fact, at once be incorporated with the Prussian army and be placed under the command of Prussian Generals. This virtually completes the absorption of the minor States by Prussia, and he latter Government can well afford to display points of lesser importance an apparent iberality towards the minor princes,

The elections for the Parliament have not yet been held, but it is already sate to say that the Parliament will be nearly a unit in sustaining the great transformation which has taken place in the lederal relations of the German States, and in urging on the Government of Prussia to complete the work of national unity. In fact, if there should be any difference in the German olicy between Coun! Bismark and the Parlia cut, it will be in the greater eagerness of the atter to include as soon as possible the German States and Provinces which are still exluded from the Confederation. As the Legislature of Baden has with almost entire unaut-mity resolved to apply for admission into the Confederation, and as France and Austria must be expected to make to such an admission the most determined opposition, the discussions on this subject bid fair to be of great interest.

The new North German Confederation is, in

point of pepulation, the first State of Europe, being only exceeded by Russia, which, in 118 European dominions, has a population of 61,000,000; by France, with 37,472,732 inhabitants; Austria, with 32,572,000; and Great Britants; ain, with 29,321,679. But of its four superiors in point of population, Austria and Great Britain have even now less infinence in the councils of European politics than Prussia; and while they remain stationary, and are disturbed by violent on, Prus sia is irresistibly pressing forward. Her army is so powerful that it has even compelled the Government of France to attempt an entire reorganization of its military force, at the risk of creating a general discontent of the people. Unless overpowered by grand combinations of other European powers, Germany is now sure to anymee, with a fair prospect of becoming soon, next to Russia, the leading power in Continental Europe.

The Diseased Condition of the Outside Southern States, and the Remedy.

From the Herald. In his memorable conversation with the British Ambassador, Sir Hamilton Seymour, the late Emperor Nicholas, looking to the reconstruction of the map of Eastern Europe, Asia Minor, and Egypt, described the empire of Turkey as "a sick mar" no longer able to manage his own affairs, and calling for the timely interposition of the great powers in view of his removal and the establishment of the modern European order of things over his extensive dominions, as demanded by the march of Christianity and the necessities of the age. Euch, we may say, in a general view, is the congitton of the outside Southern States to-day in their relations to the general Government. These relations are hardly more harmonious than is the Asiatic and Mahometan system of Turkey with the religious and political instituons of Europe, which rest upon the basis of

The empire of the Prophet had its day of power when it extended from Damascus, along the south side of the Mediterraneau to the Atlantic; but when, in its long occupation of Southern Spain, it had developed the highest civilization and remement known at that epoch among any people, it was gradually thrown back from Europe by falling into that fatal weakness of all great and prosperous political systems, of attempting too much. On a smaller scale, and reduced within a briefer compass of time, our late Southern aggressive political system, resting upon its all-absorbing institution of African slavery, from the same weakness of attempting too much, in its day of prosperity, has not only been driven back, but been destroyed. So it is that, like Turkey, which, with its effete oriental institutions and ideas, awaits a reconstruction adapted to the dominant civilization of Europe, our Southern States, shorn of their institution of slavery await from the victorious North the reorgantza tion which their situation demands, "Sword in hand," said the fighting Sultan Mahmoud, "the children of the Prophet came into Europe, and sword in hand they will go out." Sword in hand the late Southern slaveholding oligarchy have been subdued, and they must abide the

But they do not seem to understand this universal law of war. Claiming, in their late rebellious conspiracy, the constitutional right to go out of the Union and to destroy it, they now laim the constitutional right to be reinstated on their own terms. And the worst of it is that all these false and permicious dogmas, ideas, prejudices, and distinctions between State them into the Rebellion, seem to be as powerful among the ruling classes in all the excluded States to-day as when they were fighting for two thousand millions of capital invested in Con-federate scrip, and three thousand millions in lave property. It is sheer nonsense to talk of such communities as being restored to loyalty and the rights of loyal States with the surrender of their arms, or with their half-way acceptance of the generous conditions of President Johnson. The people of the loyal North have approved

the terms proposed by Congress in the pending

Constitutional amendment. It is now the duty of Congress to carry out this verdict of the people who carried through the war for the Union. To this end the power and the right are with Congress to compel the acceptance of these terms by the States wrested from the Rebellion; for it does not belong to the conquered party in a war, surrending at discretion, to say what terms it will accept or refuse.

Nor does the reconstruction of the outside

States by Congress, even as unorganized Territories, necessarily involve any other conditions of restoration than those of the amendment. The reconstruction suggested appears, however, to be necessary in order to bring the States concerned to a loyal organization in each which will accept the amendment. In this view the nice abstractions of Senator Summer and the special pleading of Senator Wilson may be dismissed. The bill of Mr. Stevens meets the case, in preparing the ground for the adoption of the amendment. The State Legislatures, as they stand, from Virginia to Texas, are in the hands of unchanged Southern Rebels. To do anything now, or next year, or for the next five or ten years, with these State Legislatures, those Rebel elements must be removed, and they can be re-moved only by a reconstruction of the Legisla-tures themselves from loyal materials.

To cut short the argument, we fall back upon he original doctrine of President Johnson, that if there are only five thousand bona fide loyal men in any one of those excluded States, they are enough for its reorganization. The bill of Mr. Stevens gives a much targer mar-gin, and is therefore sufficiently liberal for all practical purposes.

The Democracy Vindicated-Decision of the Supreme Court.

From the World. The Democratic party has reason to congratulate itself on the recent judgment of the Supreme Court, dectaring the military tribunals, which dominated over the public liberties during the war, unconstitutional. This decision is both a triumphant vindication of the Democratic party and a happy augury for the future. The Supreme Court is the Thermopyle of the present contest-the pass is narrow, the defenders are few, but their advantages of position are such that they can arrest and turn back the advancing hosts. Their decision on a matter which was the main topic of controversy between the Democratic party and its opponents during the war, is the tinal judgment of the law, as it will be the verdict of history, that the obloquy heaped upon Democrats for their pposition to the arbitrary exertions of authority, was undeserved.

When the war broke out, when the reverberations of Sumter startled all our cities, passed up all the winding streams that leed our rivers, and were re-echeed from all our hills, the vigorous alacrity with which Democratic citizens of the military age rallied to the flag and hurried to the scene of war, was not outdone by any por-tion of our countrymen. Nor aid their military zeal ever slacken. The numerous Irish regiments we sent from this city, every man in them a Democrat, and led by such Democrats as Corcoran, are a specimen which renders the Democratic war ardor conspicuous, and which is only more noticeable from the fact that, except in the Irish regiments, Democrats were intermingled in the same military organizations with Republicans. The formidable veteran hosts which the Fenians are able to muster, attest the spirit and courage with which Democrats perilled their fives in the war. Nor was it mere numbers that they contributed. Every General who acquired great distinction by his military talents was a Democrat. Without the and of their abilities the war could not have succeeded. McClellan, who organized our armies, Mcade, his disciple, who turned the tide at Gettysburg, Grant, Shermaz, are samples of these Democratic commanders, and the zeal with which their tame was cherished by the Democratic party shows how heavily its sympathies were given to the cause.

But when, at "the tinkling of a little bell." citizens were snapped up by provost marsaals all over the country, flung into forts and military prisons, and either denied a trial, or tried by military commissions "organized to con-vict;" when the regular tribunals were overborne and silenced, the press garged, free speech suppressed, and every community filled with spies, whose malicious, lying reports there orded no opportunity to contradict, the Democratic party sanctioned no such pretended "war measures," On the c trary, it opposed them with all its vigor, ridiculous for anybody to say, that those high-hunded violations of the Constitu tion shortened the war by a single day. No body can point to a single instance in which they accomplished any good. But the odium which the Democratic party incurred by its opposition to them is beyond description. now, when the din and uproar is hushed, and the civil courts are restored to their functions, the highest urbural in the land pronounces a solemn, authoritative judgment that the Democratic party was right, and that the arbitrary proceedings against which it protested were as lawless as they were high-handed. Its noble sacratices of case and reputation will hereafter shipe as one of the brightest chapters in the history of constitutional government. War is always a period of peril to civil liberty, and a none were ready to face danger in its defense when it was most in jeopardy, it would perish from the earth. It is chiefly due to the Democrane party that it has been rescued in this

The fact that the Supreme Court has escaped the servile contamination of the times, and pronounces an independent opinion which vinds cates a party so traduced and maligned as the Democracy, is full of encouragement. It a ma-Democracy, is full of encouragement. If a majority of the Court dare stand up for the Constitotion, on this question, there is solid ground for trusting its steadfast fidelity on all others. If Congress assumes that the Constitutional amendment is carried by the ratification of merely the represented States, and proceeds to legislate on that hypothesis, the Supreme Court will set aside all such laws. If Congress undertakes to degrade States into Territories, is measures will be stranded on the same barrier. If Congress undertakes to resist the judgments of the Supreme Court, the Commanderin-Chief of the army will have some duties to perform in such a conjuncture.

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The undersigned bees leave to inform his former patrons that he has fitted up a first-class Residurant, at the N. E. Corner of ELEVENTH and CALLOWHILL Streets Having had several years' experience in the business, he flatters himself in the can accommodate all who nay favor him with their parronage.

His establishment is provided with rooms neatly juri ished, suitable for either large or small Linner or Supper Parties.

H: is prepared to furnish PAPTIES, WEDDINGS,
COLLATIONS, E.c. with the best refreshments, and
good competent watters at the shortest notice

Boned turkey, alamode Beef, and all ornamental

S. DURHAM, 12 13 12trp ELEVENTH AND CALLOWHILL.

EW R UBBER DEPOT,—
Street have opened a New Rubber Depot, for the sale
of Rubber Goods of every description.
Patent Cork Rubber Shoes and Boots.
Patent Cork Mattresses
Patent Cork Ushions.
Patent Sprin. Bottoms.
Patent Stuffed Muffs.
Patent Cork Rubber Soles.
Patent Cork Rubber Soles.
Also, Guns, Pistols Ladles' and Gonts Skates, Parlor
Croquer and Par or Base Ball Parlor Skating, Skating
Eufls, Skating Jackets, by PHILIP WILSO & Co.,
1241m No.409 CHESNUT Street.